



MARCH 25, 2016

## Challenge Leaders

As of March 21, 2016, the following schools in each category are leading the 2015-16 Flu Vaccination Challenge.

### Small (10,000 or less students):

Calvin College followed closely by Hope College

**Medium (10,001 to 25,000 students):** Wayne State University followed closely by Oakland University

**Large (25,001 or more students):** Michigan State University

We hope you've liked the weekly leaderboard graphs! As a reminder, these have been emailed to schools weekly over the past couple months and are also updated weekly on the [Flu Challenge Webpage](#).

## 2015-16 Challenge Timeline

As we are nearing the end of the 2015-16 Flu Challenge, we thought we'd remind everyone our plans for a timeline moving forward.

**Now open:** [Self-nomination form for 2015-16 Innovative Champion Award](#). This award will be given to the school with the most innovative flu vaccination efforts during January – March 2016. The winner will be voted on by MDHHS and Alana's Foundation.

**March 31, 2016:** Last day for students to take the self-report flu vaccination survey! The survey will close at midnight.

**April 8, 2016:** Deadline to [submit your self-nomination](#) for your school/health center to receive the 2015-16 Innovative Champion Award.

**April 20, 2016:** Final Webinar of the 2015-16 College Flu Challenge. See more details on page 2 of this newsletter.

**May 18, 2016:** MDHHS' Flu Advisory Board meeting in Okemos, MI. MDHHS will present the 3 overall winning schools (S, M, L) with their Alana's Foundation traveling trophies. We'd like the winning schools do a quick 5-minute presentation on their 2015-16 Flu Challenge activities.

Thank you all for your hard work and dedication during the 2015-16 Flu Challenge! We look forward to working with you again in 2016-17!

# 2015-16 Flu Vaccination Challenge

*Improving Flu Vaccination Rates at Michigan Colleges and Universities*



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## ACIP Meeting: 2016-2017 Flu Vaccine Recommendations

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) met in February 2016 to discuss influenza and vote on proposed recommendations for vaccination in the 2016-2017 flu season.

ACIP renewed the universal recommendation for flu vaccination which has been in place since 2010. ACIP also amended flu vaccine recommendations for egg-allergic patients so that they may now receive the live attenuated (nasal spray) flu vaccine. There was a lot of discussion of the egg-allergy algorithm. The final recommendations need to be approved by the CDC Director and published in *MMWR* before they are officially in effect, usually around August.

Lastly, interim flu vaccine effectiveness estimates were presented at the ACIP meeting. See below for more information. The meeting minutes and presentation slides will be added to the [ACIP Meeting](#) website, likely in a couple months.

## WHO Vote on 2016-2017 Flu Vaccine Strains

The World Health Organization (WHO) met and voted in February 2016 for which flu vaccine virus strains should be included in the [Northern Hemisphere 2016-2017 flu vaccines](#). WHO recommended trivalent vaccines contain:

- A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus;
- A/Hong Kong/4801/2014 (H3N2)-like virus; and
- B/Brisbane/60/2008-like virus

Quadrivalent vaccines will contain the above 3 strains plus a B/Phuket/3073/2013-like virus.

The US FDA's Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee (VRBPAC) met in March 2016 and unanimously voted to adopt WHO's recommendation. This represents a new H3N2 strain and a switch between the vaccines' B strains from the 2015-2016 season.

## April Webinar Announcement

Save-the-date for our last webinar of the 2015-16 Flu Challenge! Wednesday, April 20, 2016 from 12:00-1:00 PM EST. We will announce the winners of the 2015-16 College Flu Challenge, have the 3 overall winners present their 2015-16 Flu Challenge activities, wrap up the 2015-16 flu season, evaluate this year's Flu Challenge, and more!

<http://breeze.mdch.train.org/immunize>  
 Dial-in: 1-877-336-1828  
 Passcode: 2499503

## RESOURCES

[2015-16 Flu Challenge Webpage](#)

[College/University Flu Vaccination Toolkit](#)

[Sample social media messages](#)

[Flu Infographic for Young Adults](#)

[Flu Monthly Posters in English and Spanish](#)

[Vaccine-Preventable Disease – Personal Stories \(scroll to bottom of page\)](#)

# Interim Flu Vaccine Effectiveness Estimates for 2015-16 Season

During last month's ACIP meeting (see above), CDC presented the interim vaccine effectiveness (VE) estimates for 2015-16 flu vaccines. A summary of the presentation findings can be found [here](#).

CDC issued a [press release](#) about the VE estimates on February 24, 2016.

Overall, the 2015-16 flu vaccines were found to be 59% effective at reducing the risk of having to go to the doctor because of flu. For virus-specific VE estimates:

- VE against H1N1 was 51%
- VE against all flu B viruses was 76%, and
- VE against B/Yamagata viruses was 79%.

Because of low numbers of flu cases during the early part of this flu season, there were not enough data to estimate mid-season VE by age group, by vaccine (live attenuated, inactivated) or against H3N2 or B/Victoria viruses.

With this season's flu vaccines being a good match to circulating flu viruses and being relatively effective compared to previous well-matched seasons, and with flu activity still at widespread levels in Michigan and throughout the U.S. – Michigan's flu activity still has not peaked this season – it is still so important that young adults and anyone aged 6 months and older who hasn't yet been vaccinated this flu season receive flu vaccine.

## Update from Alana's Foundation

We know that personal stories resonate with people and we encourage you to utilize Michigan's stories.



It is hard to believe we are nearing the end of the **2nd Annual Michigan College/University Flu Vaccination Challenge**. When we started talking about the idea of a competition with Michigan Department of Health and Human Services several years ago, we had no idea the impact this competition would have. We knew there was an untapped opportunity to make a difference and together, what a difference we have made!

It is truly amazing the level of awareness we have been able to achieve and the significant increase in the number of college students vaccinated. None of which would be possible without the support of MDHHS Division of Immunization and YOU, the participating schools. All your hard work is making a difference in the lives of so many.

Taking a look at just some of the achievements **comparing the 2015 to 2016 competition from the perspective of Alana's Foundation:**

- *# grants issued more than doubled, # schools applied also doubled;*
- *over 3x total \$ value of grants were awarded;*
- *several schools without a campus health center were able to offer subsidized vaccines by partnering with Alana's Foundation;*
- *and over 200% increase in the number of doses administered funded from grants.*

And, this program continues to gain **local momentum** and **national recognition: 2016 - AIM Bull's Eye Award, 2015 - NAIIS Outstanding Influenza Season Activities Honorable Mention**. In addition, because of YOUR efforts in making this a successful program, MDHHS and Alana's Foundation will be participating in the upcoming College Influenza Stakeholder Summit in April and the National Conference for Immunization Coalitions and Partnerships in May. All of which means that **MICHIGAN COLLEGES/ UNIVERSITIES ARE LEADING THE WAY FOR THE NATION** in keeping our students, many of whom will be parents of tomorrow, healthy and flu free!

We are so proud of all the participating colleges/universities and to be part of this initiative. Congratulations on another successful flu vaccination challenge and our collective accomplishments!

Zachary Yaksich  
Alana's Dad  
Director, Alana's Foundation

### Why get a flu vaccine?

Ask the Yaksich family of Michigan.



**This year and every year, make sure you and your loved ones are vaccinated against the flu. It could save a life.**

#### Alana's story

On February 2, 2003, 5½-year-old Alana Yaksich spent the day with her parents and brothers watching movies, eating sundaes and playing. Even with a low-grade fever from a recent sore throat, Alana enjoyed the afternoon feeling healthy and surrounded by her family. That evening, Alana was rushed to the emergency room when her fever increased to 106 degrees. Within 24 hours of arriving at the local hospital, Alana died of flu-related complications that caused swelling and injury to her brain.

*Flu is a serious disease that can be prevented through vaccination. Annually an average of 20,000 young children are hospitalized because of the flu.*

*In a recent mild flu season, 120 children in the United States died of the flu, of which half were previously healthy, just like Alana.*



[www.aimtoolkit.org](http://www.aimtoolkit.org)  
[www.alanasfoundation.org](http://www.alanasfoundation.org)



Concept adapted with permission from Truist Children's Hospital

To hear Alana's story, visit Alana's Foundation's website at <http://www.alanasfoundation.org/>.

Which schools will get the traveling Alana's Foundation trophies this year???...

